

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

S. P. LANGLEY, Secretary
G. BROWN GOODE, Assistant Secretary,
in charge of U. S. National Museum

Washington, July 22, 1891.

*Doctor Sereno Watson,
Curator of the Harvard Herbarium,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

My dear Sir:

In the absence of Professor Langley, I beg to reply to your letters of May 20th, and June 17th, relating to the Ball Herbarium. As you said the matter was not urgent, we have intentionally delayed answering until some available person was found whom we could send to assist in the work of overhauling the herbarium and making it up into sets. Your suggestion that the work be done in Cambridge is entirely satisfactory, and if you have assistants who can be detailed to do the work, we will be glad to pay our share of the expense. If, on the other hand, you have no one in mind, the

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Museum will send a man to assist in making up the sets, and I assume that Professor Trelease will also send some one from St. Louis.

I think we are all agreed that you should take such specimens as you desire for the Harvard Herbarium, and that the remainder should be made into as many sets as practicable for distribution to such institutions as will make the best use of them. It would seem that some system of manifolding the labels should be adopted so that eight or ten copies could be made at once, and that the persons designated for the work should attend to both the sorting and labeling.

I agree fully with Professor Trelease that special care should be taken to make the first two or three sets as complete as possible, and that the

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original label and all single specimens should be placed in set No. 1.

I am entirely willing to leave to you the question of the disposition of these sets. My conviction is that, as the Herbarium at Washington is under control of the Federal Government, and housed in a fire-proof building where it is accessible to the people of the whole country, the first set should come here; but if you think otherwise, we will be entirely satisfied with set No. 2.

Kindly let me hear further from you on the subject, and if you wish us to detail a man for the work, he will be sent on at such time as you may designate. It is of course, understood that the entire work shall be done under your direction.

Very truly yours,

G. Brown Goode
Acting Secretary.